

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Request for Continued Examination

A Request for Continued Examination is enclosed with this Amendment in response to the final Office Action mailed April 15, 2005.

Claim Status

Claims 1-17 and 19-29 were previously presented. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12-16 and 22-29 are canceled, and claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 17 and 21 are amended. Accordingly, claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 17 and 19-21 are now pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-17 and 19-29 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Nazem et al. (US 5,983,227) in view of Hagan et al. (US 6,734,886). In response, independent claims 2, 5 and 8 are amended to clarify limitations that distinguish over Nazem and Hagan. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12-16 and 22-29 are canceled, without prejudice.

Independent claims 2, 5 and 8 are directed to an embodiment of the invention described at page 13, line 19 to page 14, line 1, wherein all users of the same rank view the *same web page*. This is advantageous in that processing of web pages is not required, minimizing the load on the server. In addition, the number of web pages that must be stored is minimized since the number of different wholesale prices is significantly less than the number of users. Independent claims 2, 5 and 8 are amended to clarify that a group-specific Web page is selected based on ranking information included in the registered user information, and that *the same group-specific web page is provided to each user having the same ranking information directly from the storage device without further customization*.

Nazem discloses a shared memory 212 wherein commonly viewed items (stock quotes, news headlines, etc.) are stored for quick access. However, Nazem does not disclose or suggest an embodiment wherein all users of the same rank view an *identical* web page which is pre-stored in memory and does not undergo further

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processing or customization based on other user information, as is required by independent claims 2, 5 and 8, as amended. Hagan, which discloses use of medical codes that may be shared by multiple users, does not remedy the deficiencies of Nazem in this regard.

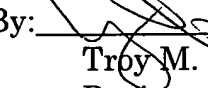
For these reasons, applicant submits that claims 2, 5 and 8 are not rendered obvious by Nazem and Hagan. Claims 11 (as amended), 17 (as amended) and 19-21 depend from claim 2, and are similarly allowable.

Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response, including the fee for requesting continued examination, may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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